

Washington, D.C.
February 21, 1864

Dear Brother

I received yours of the 7th on the 17th and was glad to hear from you. The weather has been colder for the last week than at any time this winter. Lanson Smith left for his Reg. Friday morn. he said he had a good time in Meadville he payssed you on the street several times and at last he spoke to you and you asked him if he knew me so by that it seems that you did not know him I cant see the reason why it takes so long for your letters to get here it was mailed in Meadville on the 15th they must lay a long time in the Office the paper and letter come at the same time The Union Light Guards or Black Horse cavalry has had played out they were taken away from here Friday they are to patrol the streets nights till the President wants an escort they were of no use here bully for Lew Smith I like to hear of an increase in a family but you are the other way for you want to sell mother's basting milker you must not do that for four pints of milk is 2 quarts these times we were paid \$26.00 yesterday so I think I can send you the boards by telegraph I would see the folks of Meadville be damed before I would go for \$100.00 when I could get 400 in Erie I would work for the one that paid the most that is my stile this has turned out to be a nice day Feb. 23 I will finish this letter now I put it off Sunday Sunday Night I went to church I have been 3 times since I have been out twice at the Wesley Chapel and once the Foundry Church and I have read the New Testament through, what do you think of that The President has got a new driver he commenced yesterday I had a long talk with him last nght for four or five minutes he thought we had a big thing here he thought it was a big thing to be the Presidents guard that is what all the folks say especially them from Pennsylvania there is four companys of Condemn yankees just a few rods west of us they have barracks to live in they are put through a regular course of sprouts I had rather be out in the field then be horsed about like they are but it is all in a life time. Philip gets along bully with the team did you ever hear that John Hammah was dead I heard so but I dont or rather hope it is not a fact you ask some one that would be likely to know for I would like to know oh but this is a nice day we will have a game of aball be fore long who wouldnt be a soldier last month we dug a brick side walk out of the ground it had been under ground for the last 10 years you see we are up six feet higher than the road with a good stone wall all along the side walk close to the wall we cleaned it off for a hundred yeds we had two carts the driver along for four days or more coming to a close I must stop I suppose. Write soon from your brother, Willard A. Cutter.